



Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Naloxone

Example Standing Order

Overview of Pharmacy Naloxone Rescue Kit Access Program

On Thursday March 27, 2014, Governor Patrick declared a State of Public Emergency, providing emergency powers to DPH Commissioner Cheryl Bartlett, RN. At the Governor's direction, Commissioner Bartlett, with the approval of the Public Health Council, issued an Order that authorized pharmacists to dispense naloxone rescue kits to a person at risk of experiencing an opiate-related overdose or a family member, friend or other person in a position to assist a person at risk of experiencing an opiate-related overdose.

The procedures and protocols in this example standing order reflect current medical research and clinical best practice as of April 2014. The standing order can be modified per individual clinical practice and must be signed by a collaborating Massachusetts licensed physician.

Requirements:

- A copy of the standing order must be maintained on file and readily retrievable at each participating pharmacy site
- Standing order must be filed with the Board of Registration in Pharmacy (Board) via email: naloxonestandingorders@Massmail.State.MA.US.

EXAMPLE STANDING ORDER FOR RETAIL PHARMACIES

(Your Company Name)'s Standing Order for Dispensing Naloxone Rescue Kits to Individuals at Risk of Experiencing or Witnessing an Opioid-Related Overdose

Naloxone Overview

- **Patient indications for Naloxone Distribution**

Naloxone is indicated for the reversal of respiratory depression or unresponsiveness caused by an opioid overdose. It may be delivered intranasally with the use of a mucosal atomizer device or intramuscularly with use of a needle.

Take-home naloxone rescue kits can be dispensed by a pharmacist without a prescription under this standing order to patients at risk of an opioid overdose or witnessing an opioid overdose.

Some indications for dispensing naloxone are:

1. Previous opioid intoxication or overdose
2. History of nonmedical opioid use
3. Initiation or cessation of methadone or buprenorphine for opioid use disorder treatment
4. Higher-dose (>50 mg morphine equivalent/day) opioid prescription
5. Receiving any opioid prescription for pain plus:
 - a. Rotated from one opioid to another because of possible incomplete cross-tolerance
 - b. Smoking, COPD, emphysema, asthma, sleep apnea, respiratory infection, other respiratory illness
 - c. Renal dysfunction, hepatic disease, cardiac illness, HIV/AIDs
 - d. Known or suspected concurrent alcohol use
 - e. Concurrent benzodiazepine or other sedative prescription
 - f. Concurrent antidepressant prescription
6. Patients who may have difficulty accessing emergency medical services (distance, remoteness)
7. Voluntary request from patient or caregiver

- **Side Effects:**

Naloxone can neither be abused nor cause overdose. Hypersensitivity (rash, worsening difficulty breathing, anxiety) is very rare. Too much naloxone can cause withdrawal symptoms such as:

- Anxiety, runny nose and eyes, chills, muscle discomfort, disorientation, combativeness, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea

Take-home Naloxone Order

1. This standing order authorizes Registered Pharmacist(s) at (company name) to maintain supplies of naloxone rescue kits for the purpose of dispensing to a person at risk of experiencing an opiate-related overdose or a family member, friend or other person in a position to assist a person at risk of experiencing an opiate-related overdose.
2. This standing order authorizes Registered Pharmacist(s) at (company name) to dispense naloxone rescue kits to a person at risk of experiencing an opiate-related overdose or a family member, friend or other person in a position to assist a person at risk of experiencing an opiate-related overdose.
3. The Pharmacist Manager of Record must file a copy of the signed standing order with the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Pharmacy and must maintain a copy of this signed standing order and the "*Naloxone Pamphlet*" on file and readily retrievable at each pharmacy location.
4. The pharmacy that assembles naloxone rescue kits will label kits as 'naloxone rescue kit' and note the expiration date based on the expiration date of the included naloxone hydrochloride unit.
5. The Registered Pharmacist dispensing naloxone rescue kits must be familiar with the "*Naloxone Pamphlet*".
6. The Registered Pharmacist dispensing naloxone rescue kits should be familiar with the use of naloxone rescue kits.

Note Individuals should become familiar with assembly and administration of naloxone prior to the need to use it.

NASAL NALOXONE RESCUE KITS contain the following at a minimum:

- Two 2 mL Luer-Jet luer-lock syringes prefilled with naloxone (concentration 1mg/mL)
- Two mucosal atomization devices
- Patient information pamphlet with overdose prevention information and step by step instructions for overdose responses and naloxone administration.

MUSCLE NALOXONE RESCUE KITS contain the following at a minimum:

- Naloxone HCL 0.4mg/mL
 - 1 (one) 10mL multidose fliptop vial (NDC 0409-1219-01)
 - or
 - 2 (two) 1 mL vials (NDC 00409-1215-01)
- 2 (two) intramuscular syringes, 25 gauge 3cc 1" long
- Patient information pamphlet with overdose prevention information and step by step instructions for overdose responses and naloxone administration.

Physician's Signature and License No.

Date

Physician's Name (print)

Order Expiration Date*

By signing this Naloxone Standing Order, the Pharmacy Manager of Record attests that all Registered Pharmacists at this location have read and understand both the Naloxone Standing Order and the "*Naloxone Pamphlet*"

Pharmacy Manager of Record's Signature

Date

Pharmacy Manager of Record's Name (print)

Order Expiration Date*

*** It is recommended that the Standing Order be renewed annually.**